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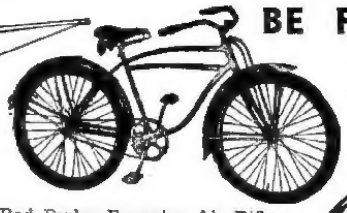
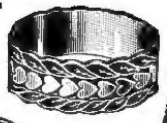


BE FIRST

BOYS GIRLS



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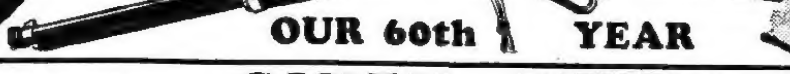

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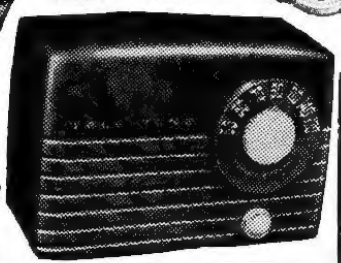

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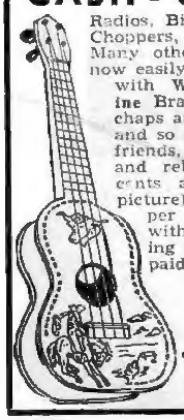
CASH - GIVEN - PREMIUMS



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Town ..... Zone No..... State.....

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THE MAN WHO KILLED THE DEVIL!

PAUL ANDERSON WAS A MAN WITH A **MISSION**! HE HAD NOT CHOSEN IT,,, BUT THE STRANGE FORCES OF FATE DRAGGED HIM INTO ITS WHIRLPOOL, AND THROUGH THAT WHIRLPOOL INTO THE WORLD OF DARKNESS! THE QUESTION IS: ***"WAS HE THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB?"***

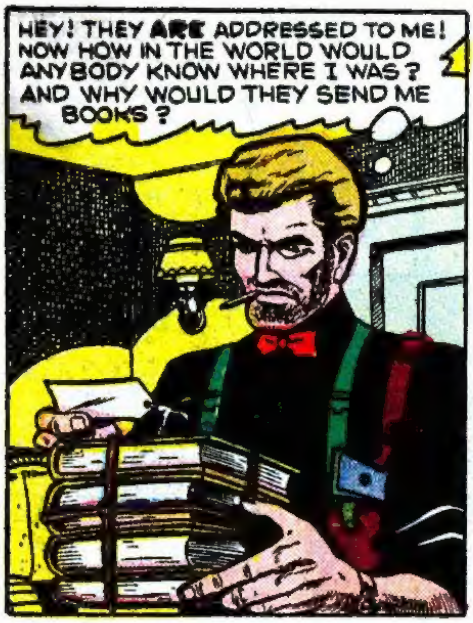
DICK AYERS

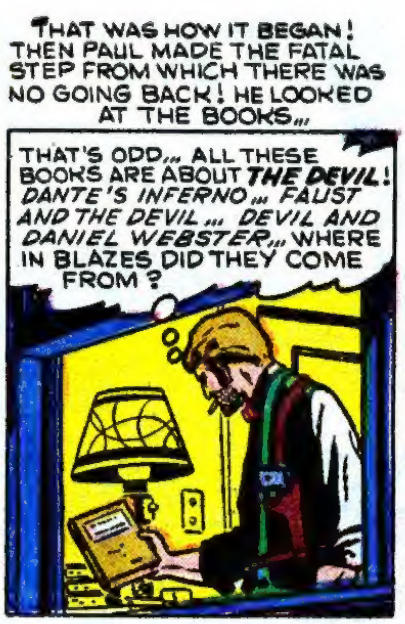
IT ALL BEGAN WITH THE RING OF A DOORBELL! PAUL ANDERSON LEAPED OUT OF HIS CHAIR AND REACHED FOR HIS GUN ,,,

WHO'S THAT? *WHO'S THERE?*

RRRRING

NOBODY HERE! *JUST A BUNDLE OF BOOKS!* WHO WOULD LEAVE BOOKS AT MY DOOR? MUST BE A MISTAKE!

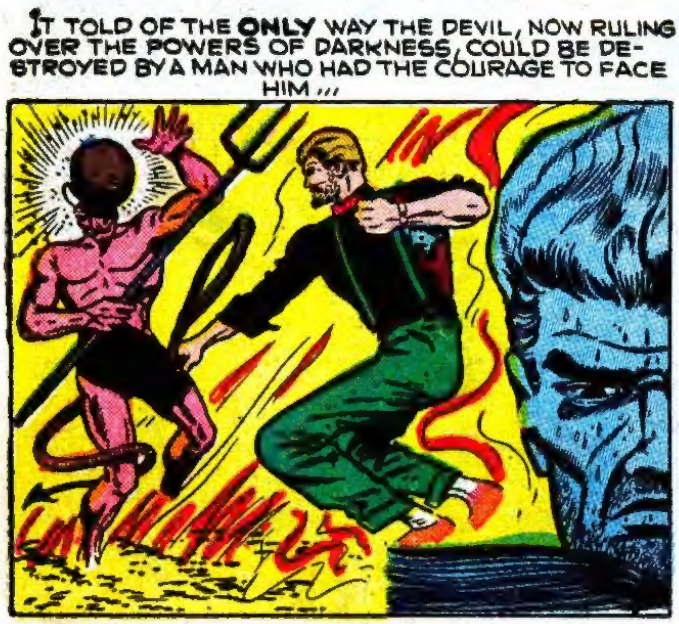

HEY! THEY ARE ADDRESSED TO ME! NOW HOW IN THE WORLD WOULD ANYBODY KNOW WHERE I WAS? AND WHY WOULD THEY SEND ME BOOKS?


THAT WAS HOW IT BEGAN! THEN PAUL MADE THE FATAL STEP FROM WHICH THERE WAS NO GOING BACK! HE LOOKED AT THE BOOKS...
THAT'S ODD... ALL THESE BOOKS ARE ABOUT THE DEVIL! DANTE'S INFERNO... FAUST AND THE DEVIL... DEVIL AND DANIEL WEBSTER... WHERE IN BLAZES DID THEY COME FROM?

BUT ONE BOOK, AMONG ALL OF THEM, ATTRACTED HIS ATTENTION...
A BOOK OF INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO FIND THE WAY TO THE PIT OF HADES AND TO DESTROY THE DEVIL... WRITTEN BY MAMMON! I NEVER HEARD OF THIS!

AGAINST HIS WILL, HE FOUND HIMSELF READING THE BOOK, WHICH DESCRIBED IN DETAIL THE METHOD FOR DESTROYING SATAN...

THE BOOK TOLD OF THE ENTRANCE TO HADES, AND HOW IT COULD BE FOUND... AS WELL AS THE RITUAL THAT WOULD LEAD HIM TO THE MASTER OF EVIL! IT TOLD OF THE IMPS...


IT TOLD OF THE ONLY WAY THE DEVIL, NOW RULING OVER THE POWERS OF DARKNESS, COULD BE DESTROYED BY A MAN WHO HAD THE COURAGE TO FACE HIM...

NO! WHAT AM I THINKING OF? THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME! I MUST BE OUT OF MY MIND!

IT WAS NOT SO EASY FOR PAUL ANDERSON TO THROW ASIDE THE STRANGE FEELING THE BOOK HAD IMPLANTED IN HIS MIND! HE FOUND HIMSELF HAUNTED BY STRANGE IMPULSES...

GUY LIKE ME'D HAVE TO BE A FOOL TO MESS AROUND WITH A THING LIKE THAT! I'M NO GOOD! THE POLICE ARE LOOKIN' ALL OVER TOWN FOR ME!

EVEN THE NIGHT HELD NO RESPITE FROM THE HAUNTING CHALLENGE OF FEAR! THERE WERE DREAMS THAT SEEMED TO DRAG HIM DOWN TO HADES...

NO! NO! I WON'T! (GASP!) IT WAS ALL A DREAM! WHY DOESN'T IT STOP?

BUT THERE WAS NO STOP TO THE DREAMS, THE THOUGHTS, THE INWARD STRUGGLE FOR POWER OVER HIS MIND! DAY BY DAY, HE WAS TORMENTED BY THE THOUGHT...

I COULD GO DOWN THERE AND KILL THE DEVIL! THEN I'D BE THE MOST FAMOUS MAN IN THE WORLD! IF ONLY I HAD THE NERVE!

I'LL DO IT! NO SENSE STAYIN' HERE AND GOIN' OUT OF MY MIND!

ALL I GOTTA DO IS FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS, AND THEY GUARANTEE THAT I'LL KILL THE DEVIL!

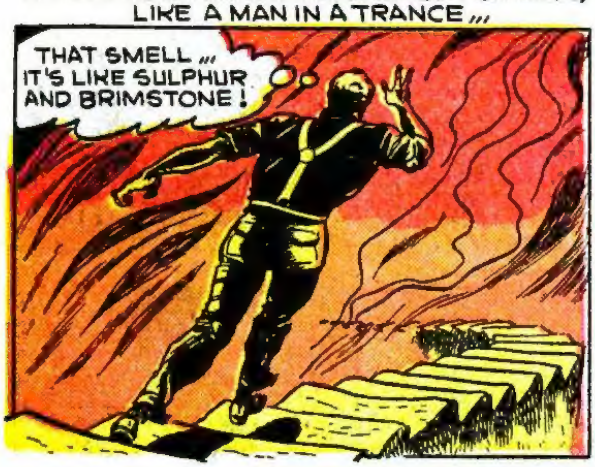
AND SO BEGAN THE JOURNEY OF PAUL ANDERSON, THIEF AND MURDERER, AS HE SET OUT, BOOK IN HAND, TO FIND HIS WAY TO HADES, THE DOMAIN OF THE DEVIL...

ACCORDING TO THIS, IT SHOULD BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE! THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A CAVE OPENING THAT GOES STRAIGHT DOWN!

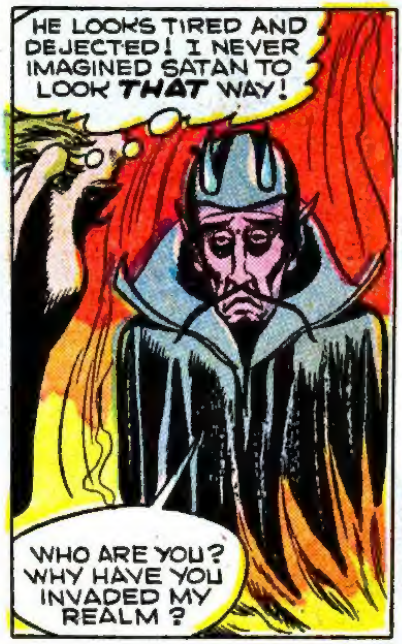
A SHORT WHILE LATER, HE FOUND WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR...

WHAT AM I DOING THIS FOR? I MUST BE OUT OF MY MIND! I DON'T WANT TO GO DOWN THERE!

BUT IT WAS TOO LATE FOR PAUL TO TURN BACK! HE STEPPED INTO THE HOLE AND FOLLOWED A PATH DOWNWARD! HE WALKED FOR DAYS, LIKE A MAN IN A TRANCE...

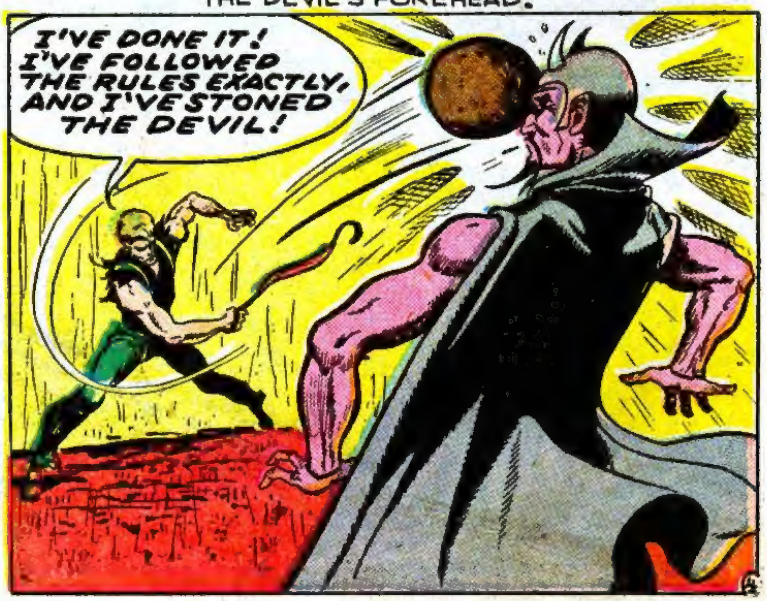


HE WALKED, FELL, RAN... STUMBLING EVER DOWNWARD! IT GREW HOTTER, UNTIL FINALLY IT SEEMED THAT HE COULDN'T BEAR IT ANY MORE...



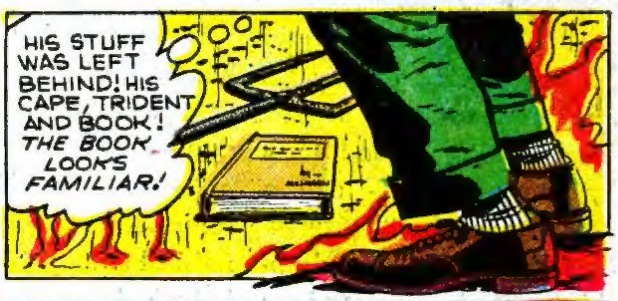
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER! YOU'RE GOING TO DIE! YOU CAN'T HURT ME!
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HARMING YOU! DEATH IS SOMETHING THAT IS NO STRANGER TO ME! IF YOU COME FOR THAT REASON, I WELCOME YOU!

PAUL DREW BACK THE HOMEMADE SLINGSHOT, AND IN THE SAME MANNER IN WHICH DAVID SLEW GOLIATH, HE FLUNG THE STONE! IT STRUCK THE CENTER OF THE DEVIL'S FOREHEAD!



THE DARK ONE DID NOT DIE IMMEDIATELY! HE WRITHED AROUND THE FLOOR OF THE PIT FOR A WHILE, MOANING AND LAUGHING WITH GLEE...
YOU FOOL! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HA! HA! HA!

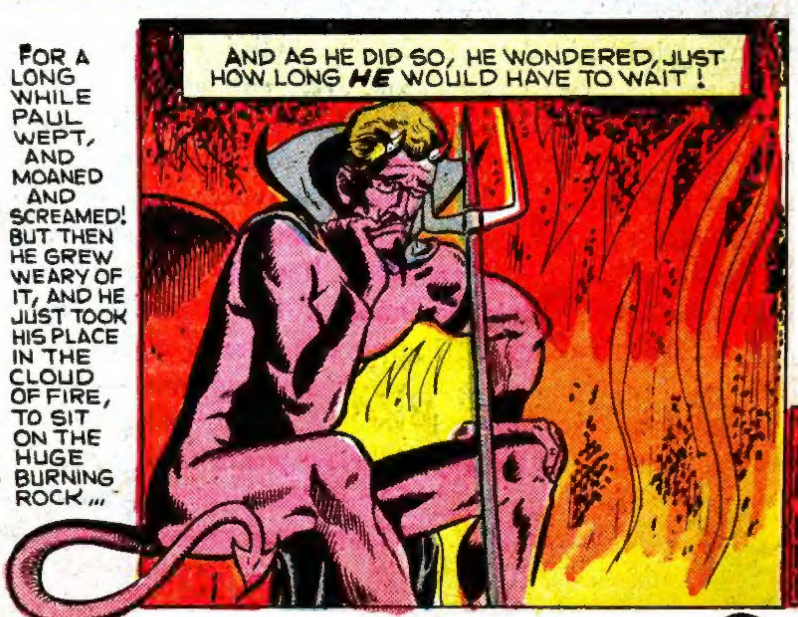
BEFORE ANOTHER WORD COULD BE SAID, THERE WAS A LONG SCREAM THAT FILLED THE PIT, AND THEN IN A FLASH OF SMOKE, THE DEVIL DISAPPEARED!



HEY! THIS WAS WRITTEN BY THE SAME GUY WHO WROTE THAT BOOK I USED... MAMMON! AND WHAT DOES IT SAY HERE?
INSTRUCTION BOOK FOR SATANS
NOW THAT YOU HAVE RELIEVED YOUR PREDECESSOR, YOUR DUTIES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS...

WHEN PAUL HAD LOOKED AT THE BOOK, HE KNEW WHO MAMMON WAS! MAMMON WAS THE ONE WHOSE JOB IT WAS TO SEE THAT THE DEVILSHIP OF HADES WAS ROTATED, THROUGH ALL ETERNITY!

FOR A LONG WHILE PAUL WEPT, AND MOANED AND SCREAMED! BUT THEN HE GREW WEARY OF IT, AND HE JUST TOOK HIS PLACE IN THE CLOUD OF FIRE, TO SIT ON THE HUGE BURNING ROCK...



ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WEIRD STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

FATAL TREASURE

"WHAT I don't see," said Bill Harris grouchily, "is why we have to spend a good weekend poking around in a dank, musty cave — and a haunted one, at that!"

His friend, Lou Slade, dropped his knapsack in front of the cave entrance and sat down on it in obvious disgust.

"First of all —" said Lou— "that stuff about the cave being haunted is a lot of nonsense, and you know it. Just because two or three of the local yokels wandered in recently and came out screaming that they'd seen some horrible monster doesn't mean you have to start believing them. Just a shadow, probably — or more likely, they were drunk."

"What about the two or three who went in and never came out again?" Bill demanded.

Lou snorted his derision. "Them? They probably got lost — or maybe they broke a leg and couldn't get out. Prowling around caves isn't for dopes, you know. No one should do it who doesn't know how. And I do!"

Bill began to pace up and down. "But I still don't see why you *want* to go in!"

"I told you before! Cave bears used to live in this cave hundreds of thousands of years ago, and we might find a skull—"

"—Which would make a fine contribution to science!" Bill finished angrily. "Only, you and I both know you aren't the slightest bit interested in the advancement of science! So what—"

Lou smiled. "You're right, Bill," he said. "I guess it's time I told you the real reason we're going into that cave."

His voice had suddenly grown serious, and Bill Harris found himself staring at his friend in surprise.

"The truth is, Bill, I have reason to believe this cave is one of the places Captain Kidd buried a large part of his pirate treasure. You know, most of it has been missing for centuries, and every now and then someone uncovers one of his hoards. Well, I found a diary in the town library that dates back to Kidd's time and the person who wrote it claims the old pirate made a few mysterious trips into this cave. I figure that's worth looking into — don't you?"

"Now you're talking sense!" Bill yelled, leaping to his feet. "Cave bears are one thing — pirate treasure is another!"

In a few moments, the two young men had shouldered their knapsacks, lighted their head lamps, and had crawled into the mouth of the cave.

For a short distance, the cave seemed to be only a narrow tunnel, not high enough for a man to stand upright. After about fifteen minutes of crawling, however, the two found themselves in a tremendous underground chamber.

"Kind of spooky, ain't it?" Bill said, struggling to his feet.

Lou shrugged. "Only because it's dark and damp and silent," he said.

Bill shivered. "That's enough for me!" He tried to force a laugh and failed.

Lou turned on him angrily. "Can't you forget that stupid spook of yours for a minute — and help me figure out where Kidd might have hidden the treasure!"

Silently, the two young men stared around them. By the dim light of their lamps, they examined the features of the underground room. Actually, there was little to see. The expanse of stone was broken only by looming stalactites and stalagmites, dripping eerily in the

CONTINUED BEFORE LAST STORY

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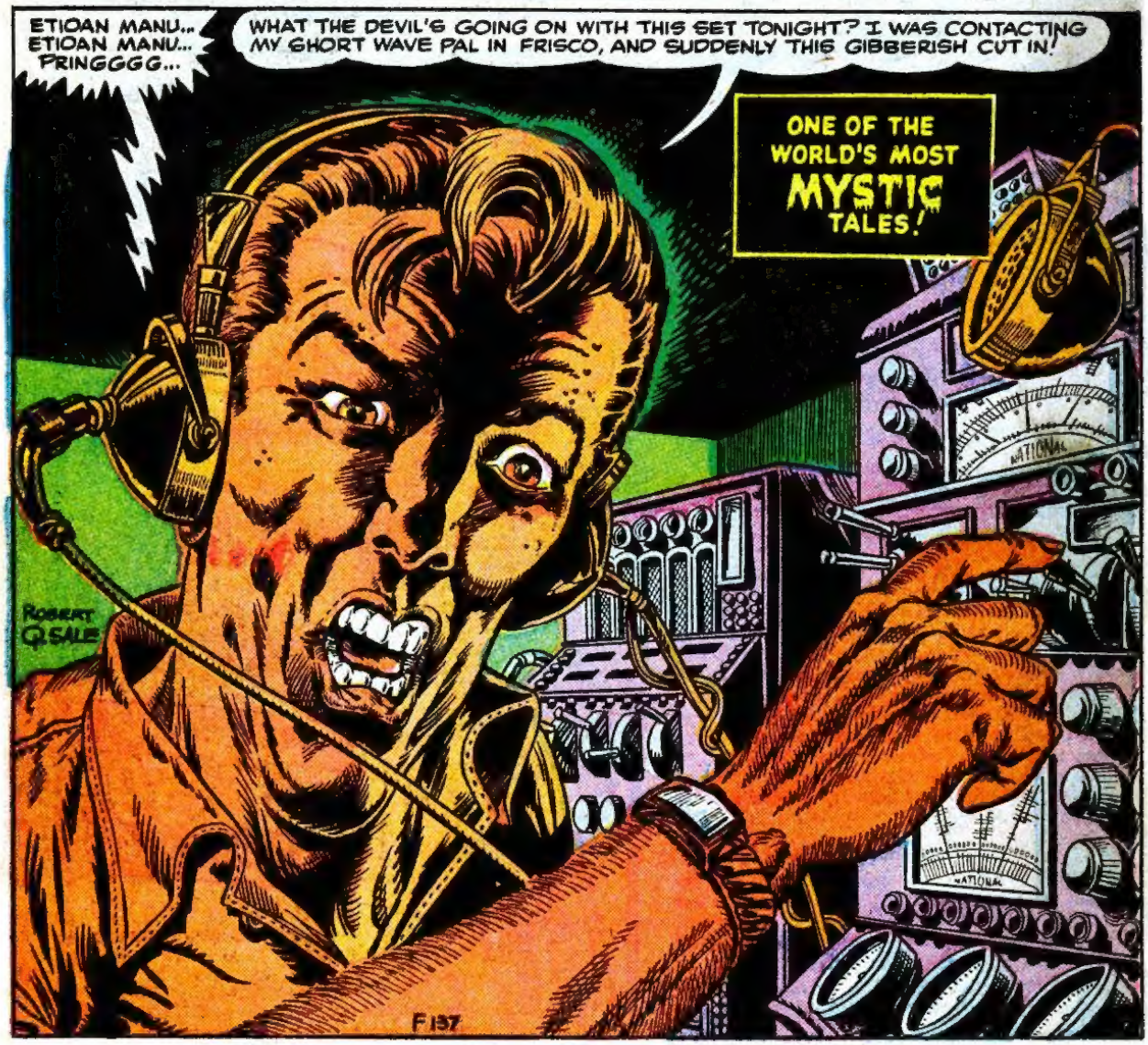
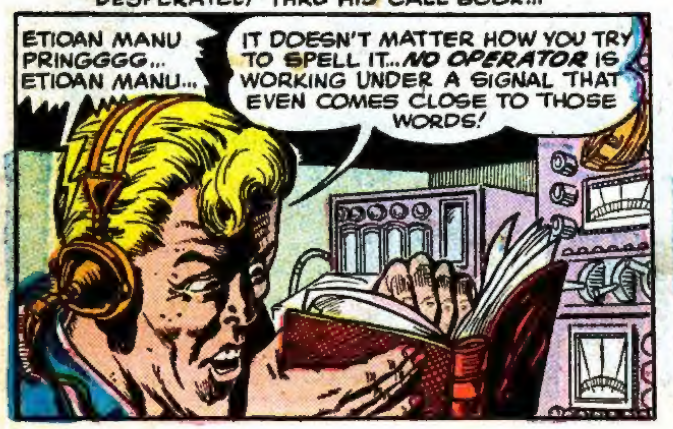

ETIOAN MANU... ETIOAN MANU... PRINGGGG...
WHAT THE DEVIL'S GOING ON WITH THIS SET TONIGHT? I WAS CONTACTING MY SHORT WAVE PAL IN FRISCO, AND SUDDENLY THIS GIBBERISH CUT IN!
ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST MYSTIC TALES!
ROBERT Q. SALE
F137

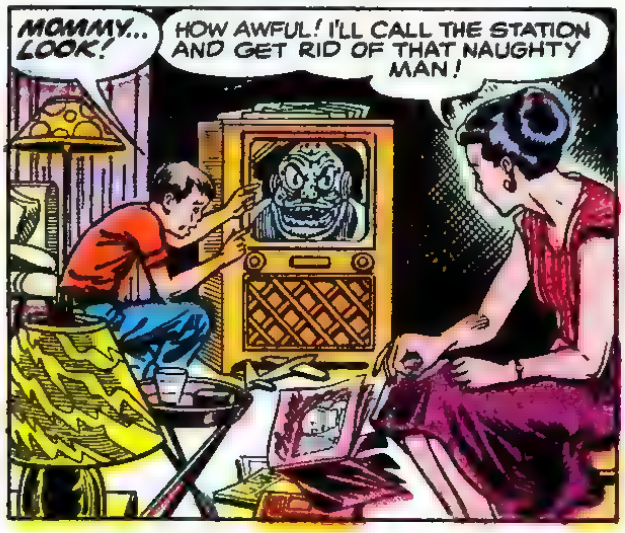
AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE WEIRD WORD JUMBLE SOUNDS THRU HIS EARPHONES, AS THE RADIO "HAM" THUMBS DESPERATELY THRU HIS CALL BOOK...


ETIOAN MANU PRINGGGG... ETIOAN MANU...
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW YOU TRY TO SPELL IT... NO OPERATOR IS WORKING UNDER A SIGNAL THAT EVEN COMES CLOSE TO THOSE WORDS!

THRU A SLEEPLESS NIGHT, THE STRANGE WORDS RING IN THE RADIOMAN'S HEAD! IN THE MORNING, HE CHECKS AT THE NEARBY ARMY SIGNAL CORPS INSTALLATION...

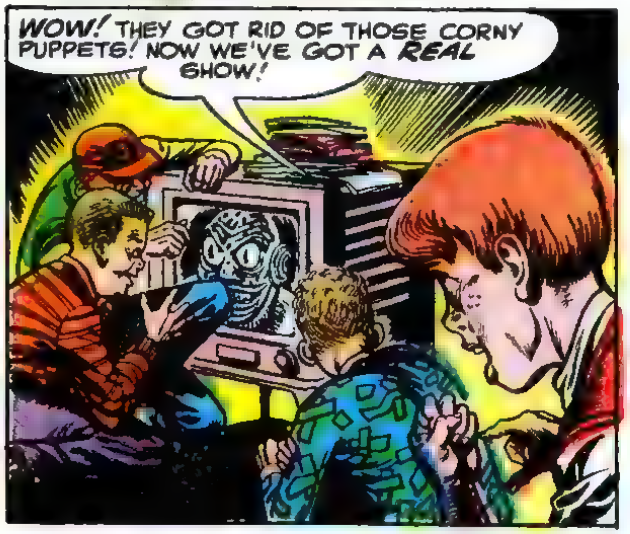
NO... NONE OF OUR MONITORS PICKED UP ANYTHING LIKE THOSE CODE WORDS! FORGET IT... PROBABLY JUST SOMEONE JOKING!
SOMEHOW I FEEL IT ISN'T A GAG!
MP

THE NEXT AFTERNOON, A SECOND STRANGE PHENOMENON OCCURS DURING A T.V. SHOW, AS SUDDENLY, ACROSS A DOZEN SCREENS, A FANTASTIC FACE FLASHES...

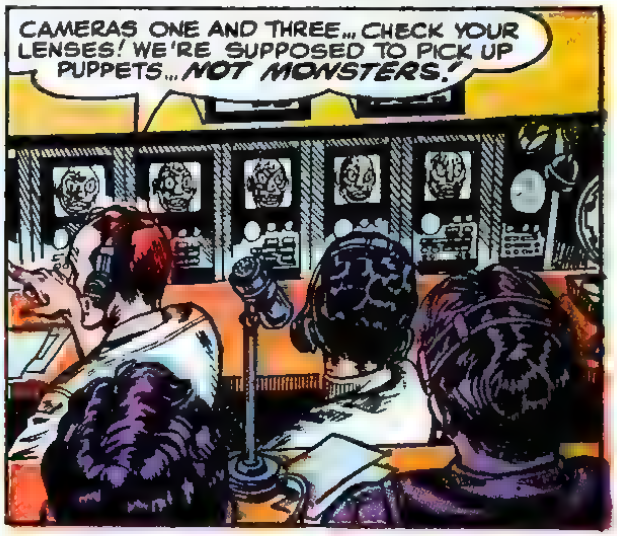


DON'T TELL ME I'M MISTAKEN! I CAN SEE THAT HORRIBLE FACE ON THE T.V. SCREEN! IS THAT YOUR IDEA OF AN ENTERTAINING PROGRAM?
MADAM, THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE! NO SUCH FACE WAS TELEVISED FROM OUR STUDIO! WE CAN'T EXPLAIN IT!

DESPITE A DOZEN CALLS OF INQUIRY AND PROTEST, THE PUZZLED STUDIO WRITES OFF THE INCIDENT TO CRANKS, UNTIL THE NEXT DAY...



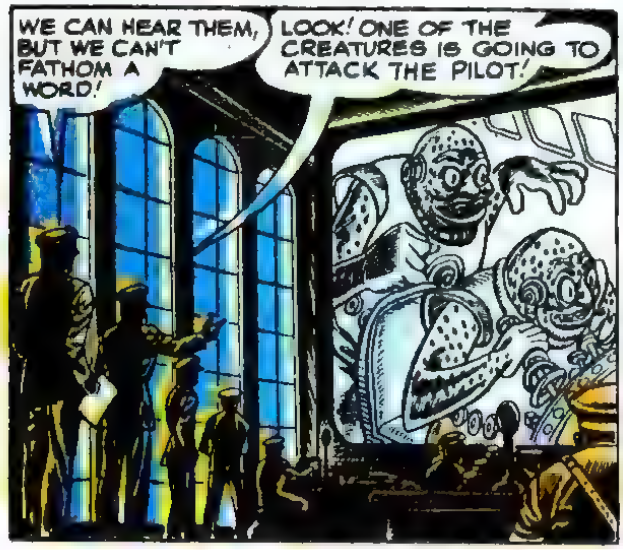
THIS TIME, HUNDREDS OF VIEWERS SUDDENLY SEE THE DIM, EERIE FACE, AND AMONG THEM, THE DIRECTOR OF THE SHOW BEING TELECAST...

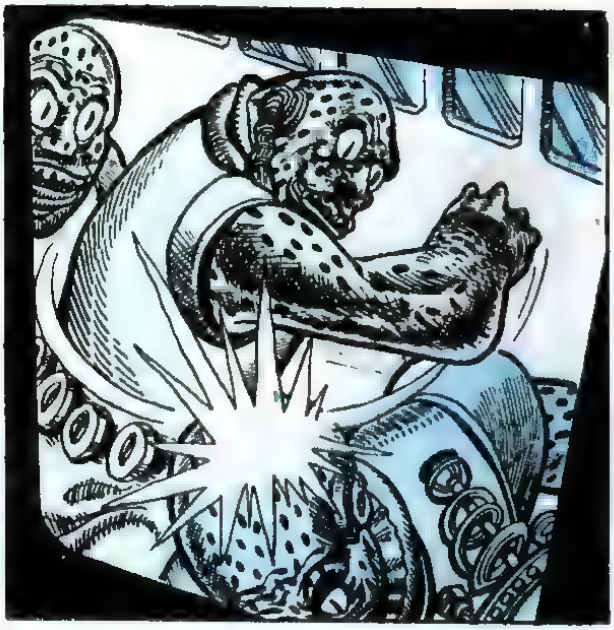


AS CALLERS JAM THE NETWORK'S PHONE LINE, AIR FORCE RADAR STATIONS SCAN FOR THE IMAGE'S ORIGIN ...

THE MOUNT WILSON OBSERVATORY IS ALERTED, AS THE GIANT TELESCOPE FOCUSES ON THE MOON, AND SUDDENLY, ACROSS ITS FACE, FROM THE DIRECTION OF VENUS, A STRANGE SPACE SHIP IS SEEN...

THE NEXT DAY, ON THE GIANT PROJECTED TELEVISION SCREEN OF THE PENTAGON, A FANTASTIC DRAMA IS PLAYED...





ACROSS THE EARTH, ON MILLIONS OF TELEVISION SCREENS, THE STRANGE FIGHT IN SPACE IS SEEN, AS ONE GROUP OF VENUSIANS FORCES ANOTHER GROUP OUT OF THE SHIP...

THEN A NEW PILOT TAKES THE SEAT! HIS WEIRD FACE SOMEHOW SEEMS MORE SAVAGE THAN THE LAST PILOT'S! AND IN COUNTLESS HOMES, THERE IS A TREMOR OF FEAR BEFORE THE CREATURE'S STERN, ALIEN VISAGE...

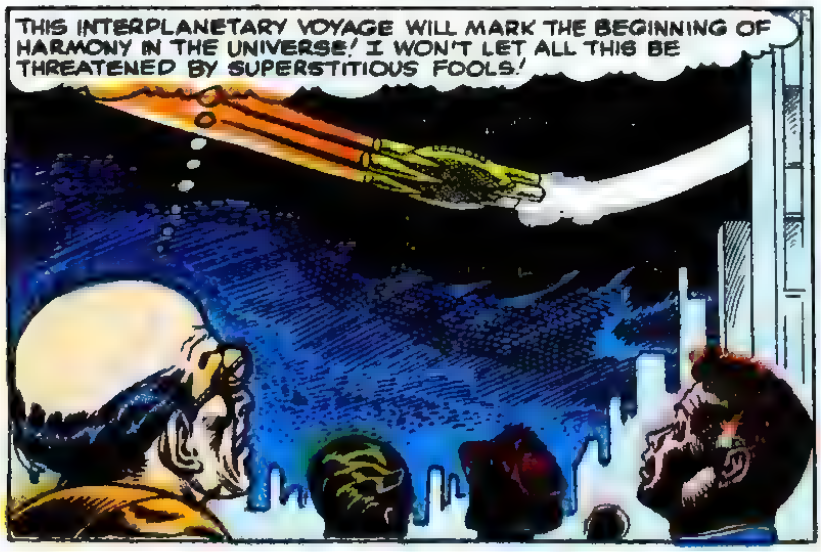
ON THE STREET, ONE QUESTION SPREADS LIKE WILDFIRE...

YOU SAW WHAT I SAW! THOSE CRUEL MONSTERS MURDERED THEIR OWN FELLOW FLIERS! THEY'RE BRUTAL ANIMALS! WHEN THEY LAND, I SAY *KILL THEM!*

WAIT, LISTEN TO ME! I AM PROFESSOR ABBOT! I AM AT WORK ON THE STUDY OF SPACE TRAVEL! ANYONE WHO CAN CROSS SPACE IS *INTELLIGENT*! THEY ARE PEOPLE, DIFFERENT FROM US... BUT *HUMANS*! THEY *MUST* BE RESPECTED AS *FRIENDS*!

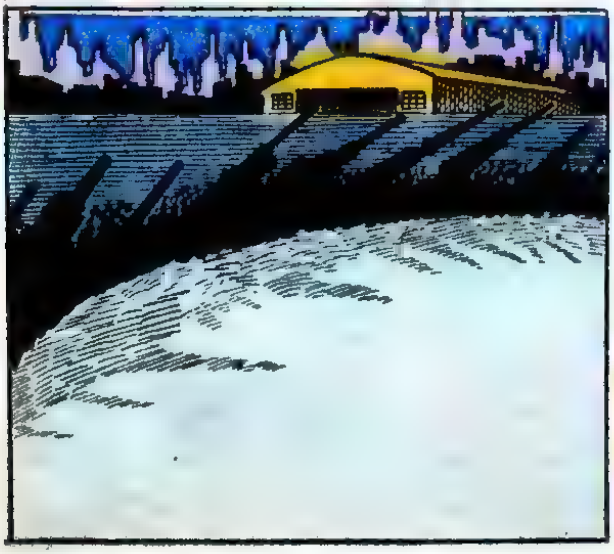
AS PROFESSOR ABBOT AND SOME COOLER HEADS MEET IN SECRET, PANIC SPREADS ACROSS THE LAND, AS THE DREAD SHIP NEARS EARTH...

SOON, THE STRANGE CRAFT REACHES EARTH, SEARCHING FOR A SPOT TO LAND, AND THEN PICKS ITS SITE...


THIS INTERPLANETARY VOYAGE WILL MARK THE BEGINNING OF HARMONY IN THE UNIVERSE! I WON'T LET ALL THIS BE THREATENED BY SUPERSTITIOUS FOOLS!

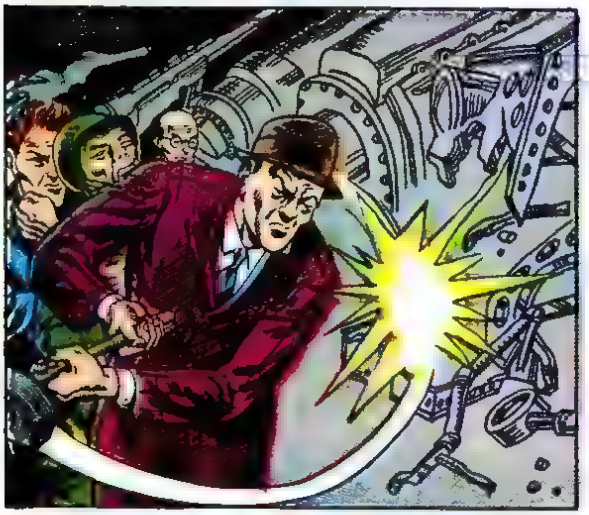
BUT AS THE SHIP SLOWLY SETTLES EARTHWARD, EXPERT EYES TRAIN AN A-BOMB CANNON ON THE ALIEN CRAFT...

SIRENS SCREAM, AS SPECIAL SECURITY TROOPS RING THE FIELD WITH ALL THE MAN-MADE METHODS OF DESTRUCTION...



BUT AS THE SHIP COMES TO REST, PROFESSOR ABBOT BRINGS DOWN HIS ARM IN A DECISIVE SIGNAL, AS THE "SPECTATORS" BEHIND THE LINE OF TROOPS SURGE FORWARD...

BEFORE THE COMMAND TO FIRE CAN BE GIVEN, THE PROFESSOR'S MEN STRIKE! THE A-CANNON'S DELICATE CONTROLS ARE SMASHED...



ARE YOU CRAZY? THEY'LL KILL US ALL!
NO, SOLDIER! THE ONLY TROUBLE THAT *WOULD* COME, WOULD RESULT FROM TREATING OUR DISTANT *FRIENDS* AS *FOES!*

IN A MINUTE, ALL HOPE OF RESISTANCE ENDS! PROFESSOR ABBOT STRIDES FORWARD, AS THE VENUSIANS DESCEND THE RAMP OF THEIR SPACE SHIP...

WELCOME TO EARTH! THOUGH YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND...
WE *DO* UNDERSTAND, PERFECTLY! WE CUT INTO YOUR COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM SO WE COULD LEARN YOUR LANGUAGE WHILE WE ROCKETED HERE!

SEEING YOU SUDDENLY ON OUR TELEVIGION SCREENS GAVE RISE TO SOME GROUNDLESS FEARS! WE NOTICED THAT NOT *ALL* OF YOU, WHO STARTED, ARRIVED!
WE BECAME DIVIDED HALFWAY HERE! SOME SAID ACT *FRIENDLY* WHEN WE LAND.. SOME SAID USE OUR SUPERIOR WEAPONS AND *CONQUER!*

WE HAD THE SAME PROBLEM HERE! SOME SAID BLAST YOU AS *FOES*... OTHERS SAID WELCOME YOU AS *FRIENDS!* THE *PEACE* FACTION WON! SO WE'VE BOTH HAD THE SAME TROUBLE!
NOT QUITE THE SAME...

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JOE AND HIS DAD ACT AND FEEL LIKE MILLIONAIRE RAILROAD OWNERS!

NOW HOW'S ABOUT PUTTIN' IN THAT NEW SIDING AT GRAND JUNCTION?

GOOD IDEA! FREIGHT TRAFFIC IS SURE BUILDIN' UP...

GRAND JUNCTION. TOWERMAN OF THE AUTOMATIC SWITCH TOWER GOES BACK INSIDE AS LIONEL'S "TEXAS SPECIAL" FLASHES BY!

WATCH IT, DAD! I'M BRINGING THE SECTION GANG IN RIGHT AFTER THIS TRAIN!

HERE THEY COME!

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OKAY, SON, NEW SIDING'S SET!

GOOD— NOW LET'S HOOK UP THIS REMOTE-CONTROL SWITCH.

WATCH HER BACK INTO THE SIDING!

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THE ITCH!

THE BLASTED ITCH! IT'S ALL OVER ME! I'LL GO CRAZY IF IT DOESN'T STOP!!

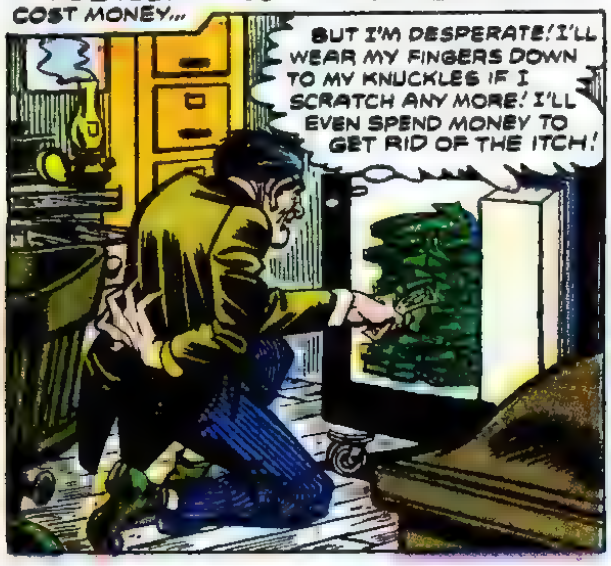
ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST MYSTIC TALES!

AL HARVEY

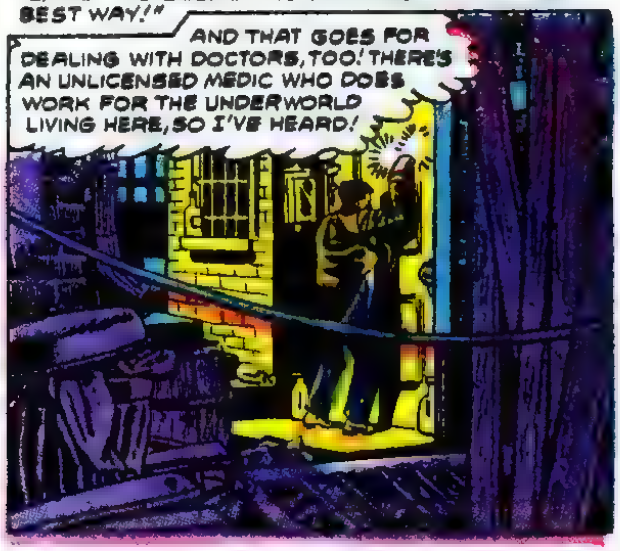
THE ITCH SHOULDN'T HAPPEN TO A DOG, BUT IT HAPPENED TO MORTIMER SCROGG, THE MISER MORTICIAN! HE'S THE KIND OF GUY THE DEVIL WILL KEEP OUT OF HADES BECAUSE THE COMPETITION WOULD BE TOO STIFF! FOR 50 YEARS, MORTIMER HAS DONE EVERYTHING TO CHEAT THE CUSTOMERS WHO CAME TO HIS MORTUARY, AND NOW HE'S DOING EVERYTHING TO GET RID OF... *THE ITCH!*

I READ SOMEWHERE THAT *MUD* WOULD STOP ITCHING!
THAT MUD BATH DIDN'T HELP... BUT THIS (BRR-RR-RR) ICE PACK SHOULD!
IF ICE COULDN'T STOP IT, MAYBE THIS SCALDING STEAM BATH WILL! *OW-W-W-W!*
NOTHING GIVES ME RELIEF... NOTHING BUT SCRATCHING!

LIKE WE SAID, MORTIMER SCROGG TRIES EVERYTHING *EXCEPT* A DOCTOR... BECAUSE DOCTORS COST MONEY...



BUT EVEN THAT DECISION IS MADE WITH THE USUAL MORTIMER SCROGG CAUTION! HIS SLOGAN FOR 50 YEARS HAS BEEN... "THE CHEAPEST WAY IS THE BEST WAY!"


AND THAT GOES FOR DEALING WITH DOCTORS, TOO! THERE'S AN UNLICENSED MEDIC WHO DOES WORK FOR THE UNDERWORLD LIVING HERE, SO I'VE HEARD!

CAN YOU GIVE ME RELIEF?
RUB THIS SALVE ON YOUR BODY BEFORE YOU GO TO BED TONIGHT... AND TOMORROW YOU WON'T FEEL A THING! THAT'LL BE FIVE DOLLARS!

THAT NIGHT, MORTIMER SCROGG FOLLOWS THE PHONY MEDIC'S ADVICE...

COVER MY BODY WITH IT, HE SAID! YES...YES... IT SEEMS TO FEEL BETTER ALREADY!

BUT A FEW MINUTES LATER, OLD SCROGG LET'S OUT A SCREAM THAT MUST HAVE STARTED DOWN IN HADES...

YEOWW

MY BODY! IT FEELS AS IF IT WAS ON FIRE!

BUT I'LL SUFFER... IF ONLY IT'LL STOP THE ITCH!

MORTIMER SUFFERS ALL RIGHT... AND ALL NIGHT! AND WHEN MORNING COMES, HE'S ITCHING HIS WAY BACK DOWN THE ALLEY TOWARD THE MEDIC'S PLACE...

THAT BLASTED PHONY ISN'T GOING TO GET AWAY WITH THIS! HE'S DEALING WITH MORTIMER SCROGG!

WHAT? YOU MEAN THAT SALVE DIDN'T STOP THE ITCH?

IT ALMOST KILLED ME! I DEMAND RELIEF FOR MY MONEY!

...OR I DEMAND MY MONEY!

I NEVER QUIBBLE ABOUT MONEY... I'LL GIVE YOU RELIEF!

...BUT I'LL HAVE TO OPERATE!

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO... AS LONG AS I GET RELIEF FROM THE ITCH!

NOW RELAX, MR. SCROGG I'LL TURN ON THE ETHER, AND IN A FEW MINUTES YOU'LL BE IN ANOTHER WORLD! AND WHEN YOU WAKE UP... YOU'LL HAVE RELIEF... THAT I PROMISE YOU!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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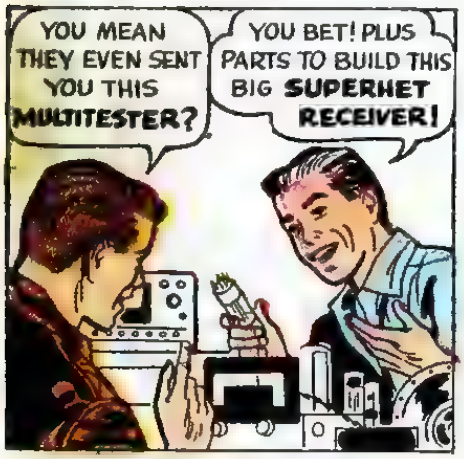

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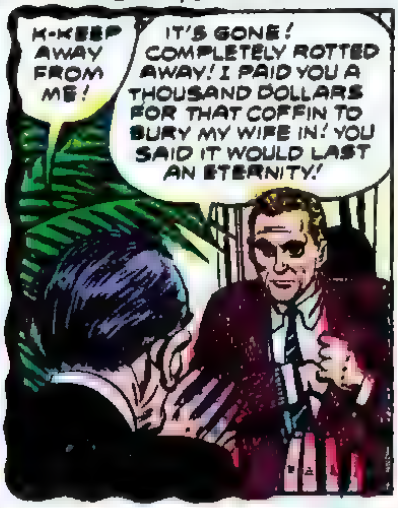
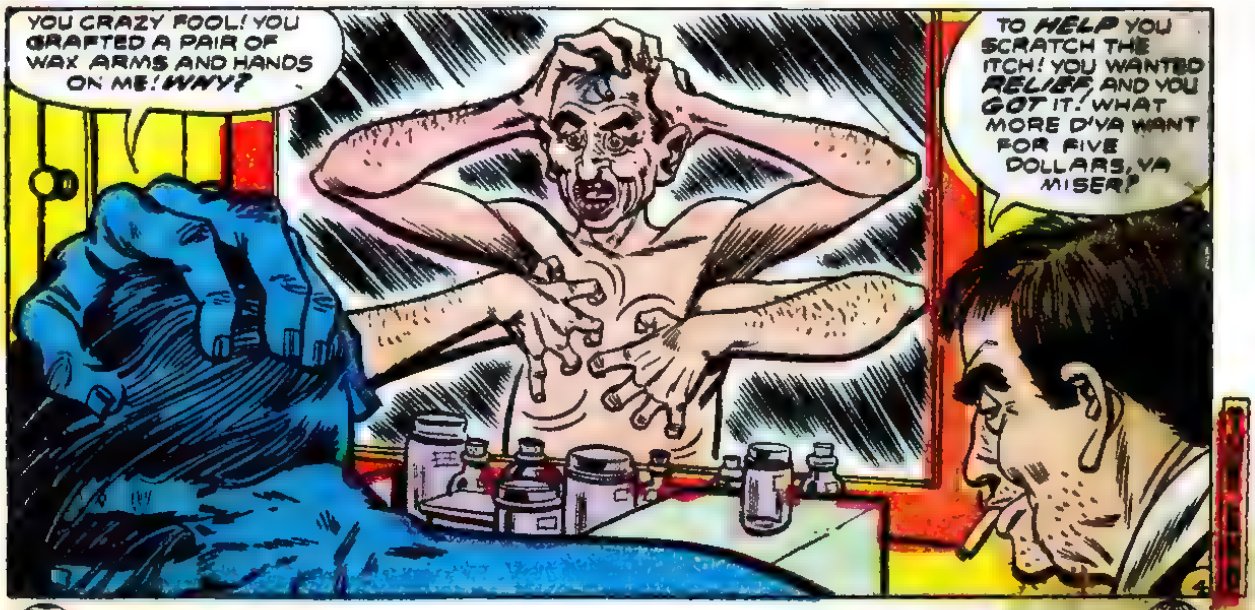
ON THE OPERATING TABLE, MORTIMER'S ETHER-INTOXICATED MIND HAUNTS HIM WITH FACES OF ALL THE PEOPLE HE HAS CHEATED IN HIS 50 YEARS AS A MORTICIAN...

HIS UNCONSCIOUS BODY BLEEDS SWEAT FROM EVERY PORE AS HIS BRAIN RECALLS THE DAY ONE OF THOSE CUSTOMERS, A CHEMIST, CAME BACK...


K-KEEP AWAY FROM ME!
IT'S GONE! COMPLETELY ROTTED AWAY! I PAID YOU A THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THAT COFFIN TO BURY MY WIFE IN! YOU SAID IT WOULD LAST AN ETERNITY!

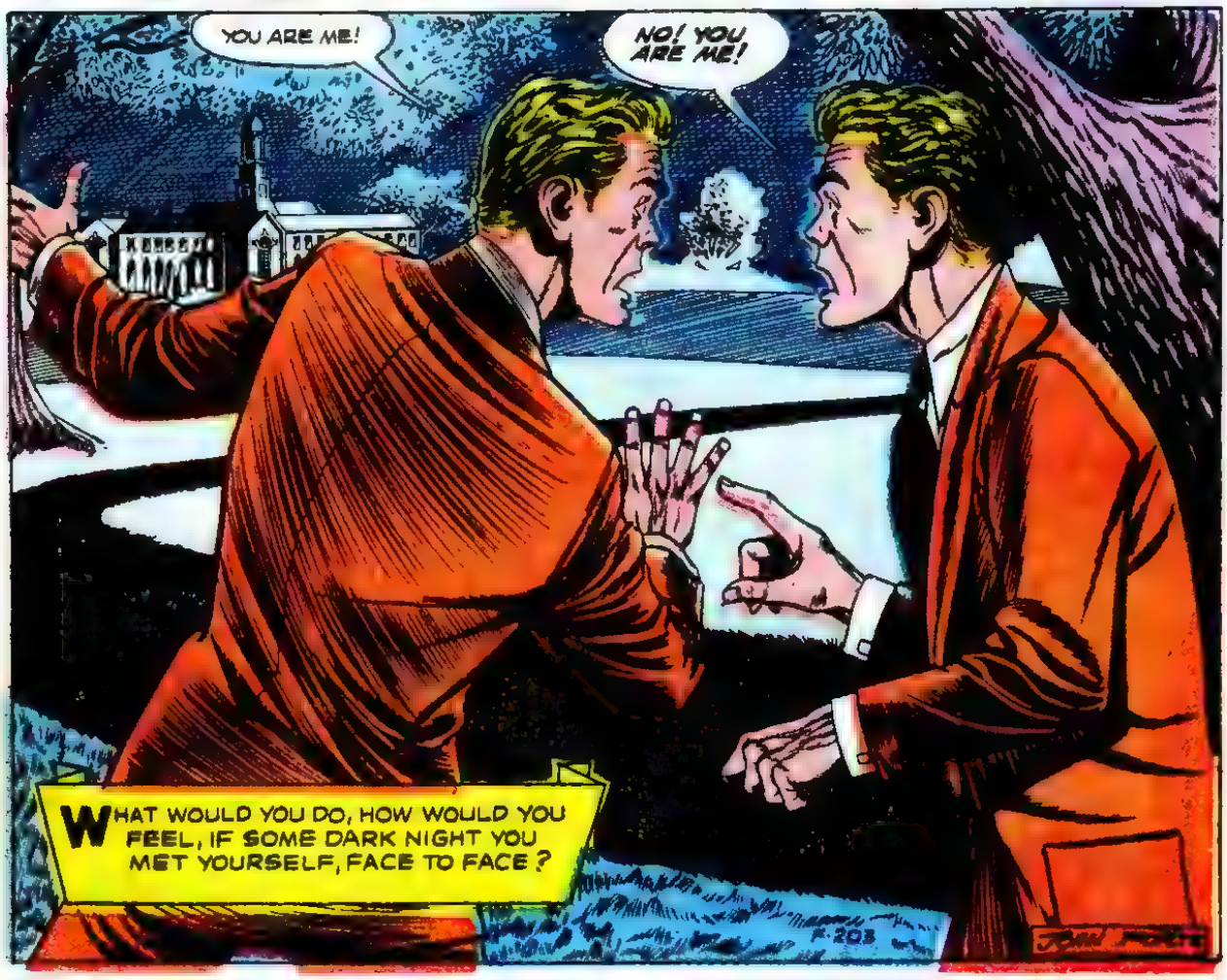
IT'S A POWDER, MADE ESPECIALLY FOR YOU, MR. SCROGG! YOUR PALMS ARE ALWAYS ITCHING FOR MONEY! NOW YOUR WHOLE BODY WILL DO THE SAME... WITH THE ITCH!
OW-W-W! I'M ITCHY ALL OVER! HELP! MAKE IT STOP!

BUT I'M STILL ITCHY ALL OVER! YOU HAVEN'T MADE IT STOP!
I DIDN'T SAY I WOULD! I SAID I'D GIVE YOU RELIEF... AND THAT'S WHAT I'VE DONE! LOOK INTO THE MIRROR!


YOU CRAZY FOOL! YOU GRAFTED A PAIR OF WAX ARMS AND HANDS ON ME! WHY?
TO HELP YOU SCRATCH THE ITCH! YOU WANTED RELIEF AND YOU GOT IT! WHAT MORE D'YA WANT FOR FIVE DOLLARS, YA MISER?

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WEIRD STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

YOU ARE ME!



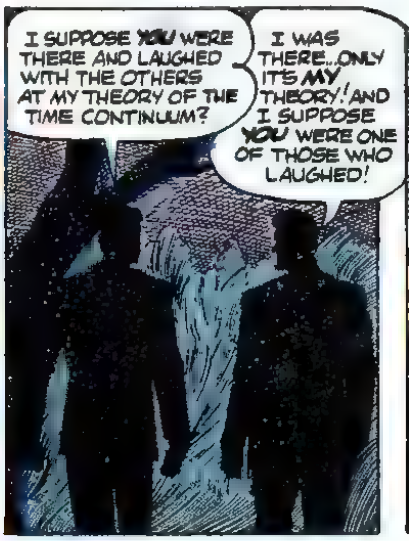
HE HAD STOOD WITH PROFESSOR MEAD IN FRONT OF THE UNIVERSITY HALL AND THE LAUGHTER STILL ECHOED IN HIS EARS...

YOU CAN'T BLAME THEM, PERRY! YOUR THEORY IS VERY WELL WORKED OUT, BUT BASED ON UTTER ROT! WHAT YOU NEED IS A REST! YOU'VE BEEN WORKING TOO HARD!
YOU BELIEVE THAT TOO?

SOMEDAY MY THEORY OF THE TIME CONTINUUM WILL BE PROVEN...OF MANY WORLDS EXACTLY ALIKE, LIKE REFLECTIONS IN A MIRROR, EXISTING SIDE BY SIDE IN TIME... BUT SEPARATED BY THE FOURTH DIMENSION! THEN LET ME SEE YOU AND THOSE OTHER FOOLS LAUGH!

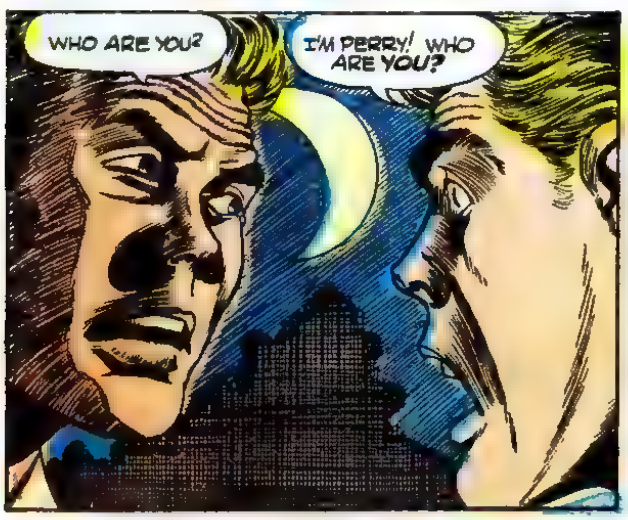
HE STAMPED AWAY IN ANGER, TOWARD HIS HOME ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CAMPUS...

HE BECAME CONSCIOUS THEN OF THE FIGURE THAT WALKED BESIDE HIM! IN THE DARKNESS, THEY WERE JUST TWO ANIMATED SHADOWS WITHOUT IDENTITY...


I SUPPOSE YOU WERE THERE AND LAUGHED WITH THE OTHERS AT MY THEORY OF THE TIME CONTINUUM?
I WAS THERE...ONLY IT'S MY THEORY! AND I SUPPOSE YOU WERE ONE OF THOSE WHO LAUGHED!

THE VOICE... IT SOUNDED SO FAMILIAR! THEY HAD REACHED A SPOT WHERE MOONLIGHT FORMED A SILVER POOL THROUGH THE TREES! THEY TURNED TO LOOK AT EACH OTHER...SHOCK, AMAZEMENT FLOODED THROUGH HIM...

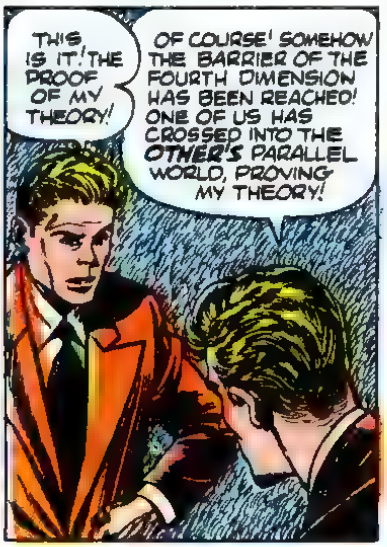
AND EVERY EMOTION THAT WAS HIS WAS MIRRORED IN THE FACE BEFORE HIM... HIS FACE! HE WHISPERED THEN, A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION...



NO! I'M PERRY, SO HOW CAN YOU BE? I'M JUST RETURNING HOME FROM READING A PAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY ON MY TIME CONTINUUM!
MY TIME CONTINUUM! I JUST DELIVERED THAT SPEECH AT THE UNIVERSITY! THEY LAUGHED... EVEN PROFESSOR MEAD DIDN'T BELIEVE ME... AND NOW I'M GOING HOME!

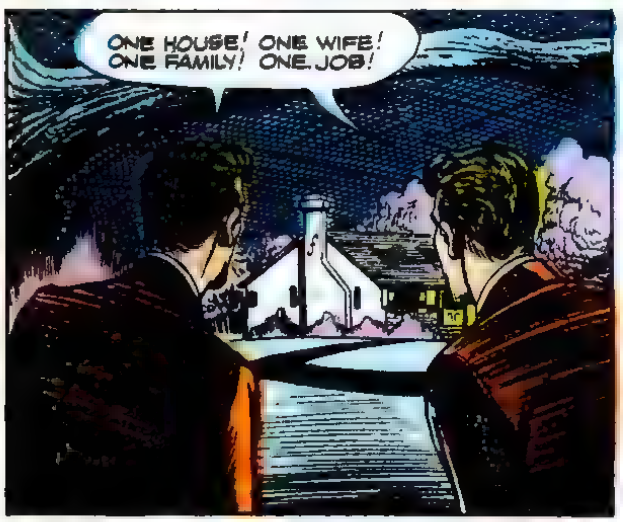
LOOK, I'VE HAD ENOUGH FOR ONE EVENING! IF THIS IS SOME KIND OF GAG...
I FEEL THE SAME WAY! IF YOU THINK YOU CAN KID ME INTO BELIEVING YOU ARE ME...

THEN, AS HE STARED INTO THE FACE BEFORE HIM...HIS FACE...HE SAW THE REALIZATION COME EXACTLY AS IT CAME TO HIM...LIKE LOOKING INTO A MIRROR...


THIS IS IT! THE PROOF OF MY THEORY!
OF COURSE! SOMEHOW THE BARRIER OF THE FOURTH DIMENSION HAS BEEN REACHED! ONE OF US HAS CROSSED INTO THE OTHER'S PARALLEL WORLD, PROVING MY THEORY!

IN PARALLEL WORLDS WE BOTH DELIVERED THE SAME SPEECH, HEARD THE SAME LAUGHTER!
FELT THE SAME RIDICULE! THEN WE EACH BEGAN TO WALK HOME... AND ONE OF US SOMEHOW STEPPED THROUGH TIME INTO THE WORLD THAT EXISTS SIDE BY SIDE WITH HIS!

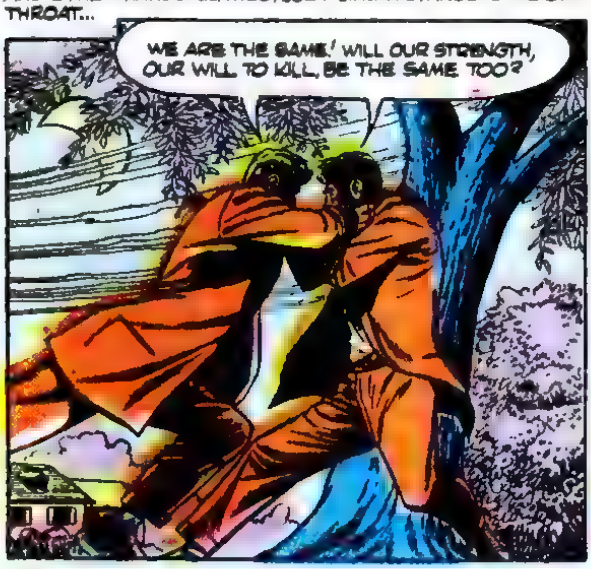
SUDDENLY, THEY BOTH TURNED AND LOOKED TOWARD THE LITTLE WHITE HOUSE AT THE EDGE OF THE CAMPUS...AND BOTH THEIR MINDS HAD THE SAME THOUGHTS TOGETHER...



ONE IS A USURPER, AN IMPOSTOR ON THIS EARTH! ONE MUST NOT BE HERE!

HE REACHED OUT, HIS HANDS LIKE CLAWS, TWINING AROUND THE THROAT OF HIS OTHER SELF...

AND OTHER HANDS CLAWED, JUST LIKE HIS, AROUND HIS OWN THROAT...



THEN HE FELT THE OTHER PERRY'S HANDS WEAKEN...HE SAW THE GLAZE THAT CAME TO THE EYES THAT WERE HIS...HE FELT THE BODY SAG AND COLLAPSE IN THE BUSHES...

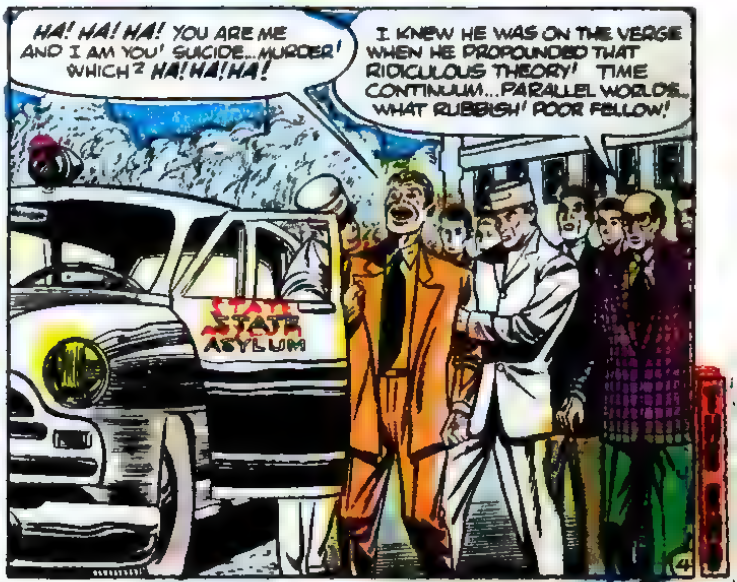
HE STRAIGHTENED THEN AND LOOKED DOWN AT HIS OTHER SELF, DEAD IN THE SHADOWS! AND HE THOUGHT...

THIS WILL STOP THEIR LAUGHTER! THE THING I PRAYED FOR HAS COME TO PASS...THE COMPLETE AND UTTER PROOF OF THE TRUTH OF MY THEORY!

HE LOOKED AGAIN AT THE BODY ON THE GROUND AND HIS MIND WAS CHURNING...

MY BODY! MY FACE! MAYBE I WAS THE ONE WHO JUMPED THE TIME BARRIER! MAYBE THIS WAS HIS WORLD, AND MY HOUSE, MY WIFE, MY JOB, MY LIFE...IS REALLY HIS! HOW CAN I EVER KNOW FOR SURE? NOTHING WILL EVER BE THE SAME AGAIN!

HIS BRAIN REELED, SPUN, AND UNABLE TO COPE WITH THIS THING THAT HAD BEEN THEORY BUT NOW WAS FACT, HIS OVERTAXED MIND SNAPPED..

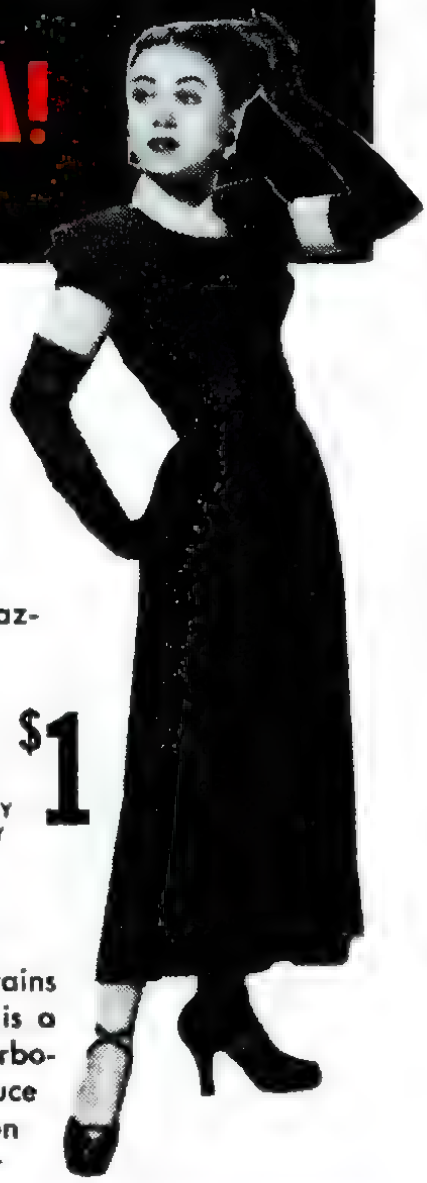

HA! HA! HA! YOU ARE ME AND I AM YOU! SUICIDE...MURDER! WHICH? HA! HA! HA!
I KNEW HE WAS ON THE VERGE WHEN HE PROPOUNDED THAT RIDICULOUS THEORY! TIME CONTINUUM...PARALLEL WORLDS... WHAT RUBBISH! POOR FELLOW!
STATE ASYLUM

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WEIRD STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

CHEW IMPROVED FORMULA

CHEWING GUM!

REDUCE



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dark. Along the sides of the chamber were holes similar to the one they had just come out of.

Bill pointed to the black openings. "Say, Lou, do you suppose they lead into more tunnels?"

"Maybe. Why?"

Bill scratched his head. "It's just that, if they do, the tunnels may lead into more chambers. Then how do we know in which one Kidd hid his treasure?"

"I don't think Kidd would bother lugging that stuff too far," Lou said thoughtfully. "Gold is pretty heavy, you know. He probably left some kind of marker, anyhow, and all we have to do is find it."

With Bill following close behind, Lou began to walk along the rock-strewn floor of the cavern. After a moment, he stopped short and grabbed Bill's arm.

"Look!" Bill shouted, pointing.

A human skeleton lay on the ground, one bony arm extended in the direction of one of the tunnel openings.

Bill shuddered, and turned his eyes away, then he, too, stiffened.

"Lou!" he whispered, "There's another one — in front of the next tunnel opening!"

It was Lou's turn to look worried. Then he straightened and smiled. "Probably old Kidd divided his treasure in two parts — one up this tunnel, and the other up that one. We'll look here first."

He started into the black opening, and Bill clutched his arm.

"Lou," he quavered, 'I'm getting scared. This skeleton — the bones look as if they'd been . . . gnawed!"

"Lou," he quavered, "I'm get- impatiently. "There are always rats in these caves," he said gruffly. "If I'd known you were going to be such a coward, Bill, I'd never —"

"Okay," Bill mumbled. "Start crawling. I'll follow."

This time they had gone only a few feet when they both froze in horror. Something was crawling through the tunnel toward them!

"Quick!" Lou shrieked. "Go back, back! I've got a gun — we can fight whatever it is in the big room!"

Scrambling for their lives, the two young men made it back into the large room they'd just come from. The sounds from the tunnel grew louder and more menacing.

"My head lamp!" Bill screamed. "Lou! I've lost it!"

"Never mind!" Lou told him, trying to fight back his own fright. "I've still got mine — and a revolver. A bullet will stop whatever —"

Then the . . . thing debouched into the cave. Bill shrieked again in terror and fell to his knees. Lou gasped, and whipped out his gun. The thing coming at them looked like a bear, but it was three times the size of any bear either man had ever seen, and it shown with a ghostly light!

"It's the ghost of a cave bear!" Bill gurgled in terror. "It must be the guardian of Captain Kidd's gold. Quick, Lou! Kill it! Kill it!"

Lou emptied his gun, but the bullets whistled harmlessly through the thing and crashed against the rock walls. The apparition continued its steady, horrible advance, and they could see its beady eyes glittering and its ghostly jaws slavering.

"It's no use, Bill! Lets get out of here!""

"How? Which tunnel leads out? I-I've forgotten!"

Desperately, the two young men raced for different tunnel openings — and were caught just as their outstretched hands touched the openings.

Then the beast settled down to its feast, never disturbing the arms that would serve as markers for the next . . . victims.

THE END B-470

STAMPS

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SPORTSMAN'S POST, Dept. MCG-46
26 East 46th St., New York, N. Y.

WHAT HAPPENED IN MIDVILLE

FEAR RIPPLED THROUGH THE CURIOUS, FUN-MAKING CROWD... LIKE THE WINTER WINDS THAT SWEEP THROUGH A GRAVEYARD! FEAR CLUTCHED THE HEARTS OF THE MIDVILLE CITIZENRY, INCITING PARALYSIS... THEN PANIC AND RIOT!
GIVE ME THAT BOX! I MUST HAVE IT!
NO, YOU DON'T, WOMAN! IT'S MINE! GET AWAY FROM ME!
I'M SAVED! I FOUND IT!
NO LONGER WAS THERE HOLIDAY IN THE AIR! IN A MOMENT, SIMPLE FOLK REVERTED TO THE ROLE OF ANIMALS! THEN, IN THE WAKE OF PANDEMONIUM CAME SILENCE, AND THE NUMB HORROR OF THE RECKONING! TEN DEAD! WHY?
...AND MAY WE BE FORGIVEN FOR THIS...OUR BLACKEST DAY OF INFAMY!

WHY? LET US GO BACK A BIT AND PICK UP THE TRAIL OF THE BEST KNOWN FEET IN MOVILLE! STURDY FEET, MAKING THEIR APPOINTED ROUNDS...

FAITHFUL POSTMAN'S FEET, GOING UP AND DOWN THE STREETS! "ONE CAN SET HIS WATCH BY JASON BEANE," THE VILLAGERS SAID! THEY ADMIRED HIM, AND LIKED HIM...

FUNNY ABOUT JASON... NO ONE KNEW ANYTHING MUCH ABOUT HIM! HE'D BEEN AROUND FOR SEVERAL YEARS...HE WAS A CLOSED-MOUTHED ONE, WHICH WAS GOODY MADE HIM A NATURAL CONFIDANT...

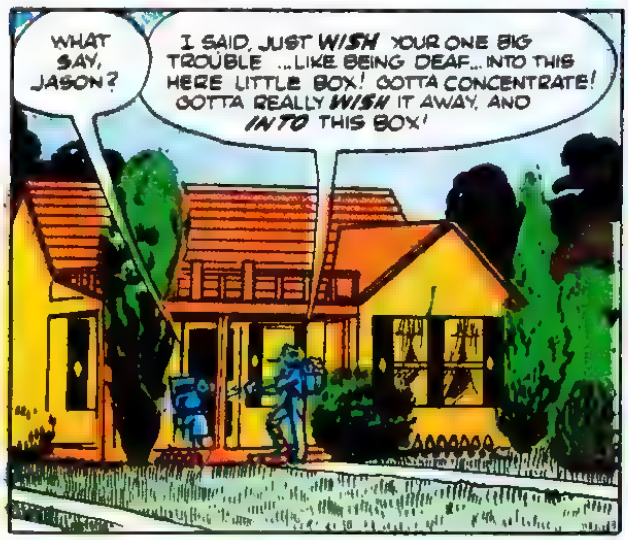
AIN'T MUCH FOR TALKING, MISS ABBIE! BUT HOW'S THE RHEUMATISM?
OH, JASON, IT'S SIMPLY KILLING ME! SEEMS TO HAVE SETTLED IN MY BACK! IF ONLY I WERE WELL! BUT I GUESS IT'S NO USE WISHING!

TIGHT-LIPPED JASON...A NATURAL RECEPTACLE FOR ALL THE WOES AND WORRIES OF THE VILLAGE!

ABOUT ALL HE HAS TO SAY, HORACE!
THANKS A HEAP, JASON! THESE EYES OF MINE! USED T'READ FROM MORNING TILL NIGHT! NOW DOC TELLS ME IT'S HOPELESS! BE BLIND BEFORE NEW YEAR'S!

PATIENTLY, JASON BEANE GAVE EAR TO ALL COMPLAINTS! SEEMED LIKE ALL THE GOOD FOLKS OF MIDVILLE HAD ONE THING IN COMMON...TROUBLES! IF IT WASN'T A PHYSICAL AILMENT, MAYBE IT WAS MARITAL WOES! "IF ONLY," THEY'D SAY, "HOW PERFECT EVERYTHING WOULD BE!"

TROUBLES! IF ONLY JASON COULD HELP! BUT THEY SIGHED AND SHOOK THEIR HEADS SADLY, KNOWING HE'D JUST BEEN MAKING A GESTURE OF SYMPATHY! OR **WAS** HE? FOR ONE DAY, HE MADE CERTAIN SPECIAL DELIVERIES...

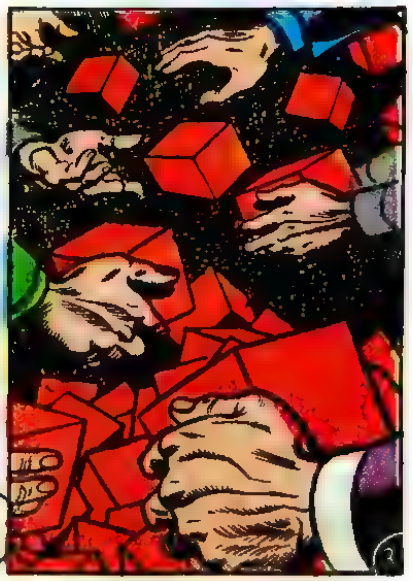

WHAT SAY, JASON?
I SAID, JUST **WISH** YOUR ONE BIG TROUBLE ...LIKE BEING DEAF... INTO THIS HERE LITTLE BOX! GOTTA CONCENTRATE! GOTTA REALLY **WISH** IT AWAY, AND **INTO** THIS BOX!

JASON! YOU'RE A BIT TETCHED!
DO AS I TELL YOU, MISS CROMBIE! AND ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, I WANT YOU TO COME DOWN TO THE VILLAGE COMMON...LEAVE THIS BOX THERE! NOW CONCENTRATE!

LAUGHTER, SKEPTICISM, JOKES RAN HIGH AS JASON DELIVERED HIS BOXES.. ONE TO A CUSTOMER.

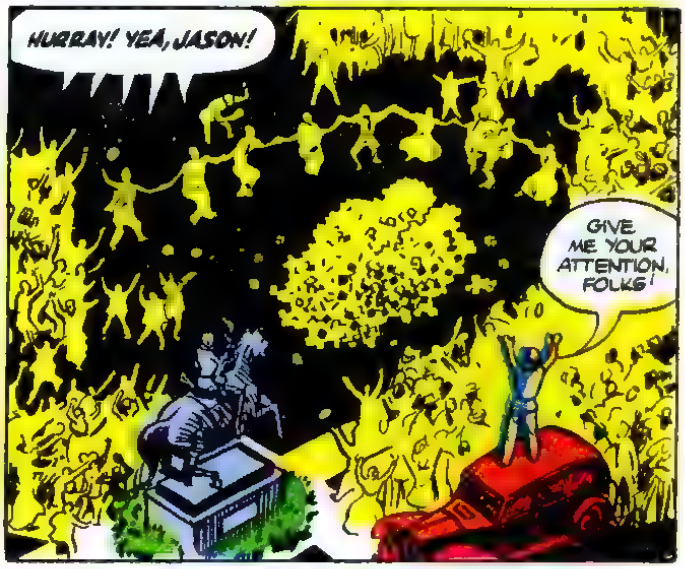
BUT AS FRIDAY APPROACHED, A STRANGE EXCITEMENT PULSATED THROUGH THE VILLAGE! MAYBE IT WAS A JOKE, BUT PEOPLE ARE ONLY HUMAN! AND NOW IT WAS THE HOUR. AND THEY BEGAN TO GATHER...

AND ON THE COMMON, THE MOUND OF BOXES GREW HIGHER AND HIGHER...



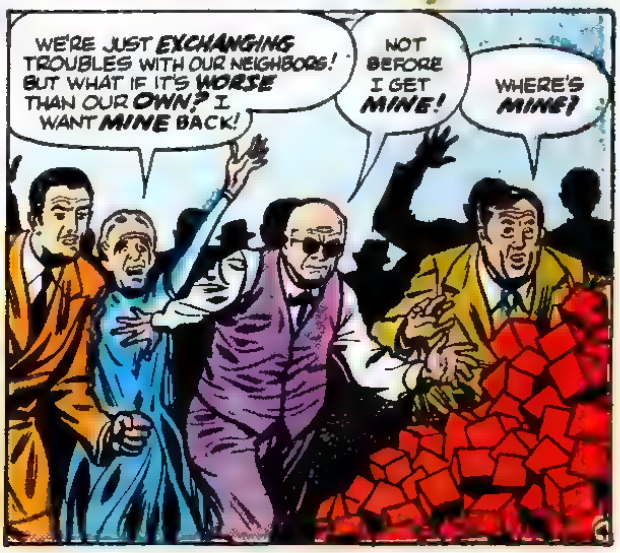
HIGH ON THE COMMON STOOD THE PILED-UP BOXES! THE TOWNSPEOPLE REALIZED THEIR FOOLISHNESS AS THEY STOOD THERE...EMBARRASSED, COVERING UP THEIR DISCOMFORT WITH AN OCCASIONAL NERVOUS LAUGH...

DISBELIEF GAVE WAY TO THE TRIUMPHANT ROAR OF THE CROWD, AS EACH FOUND HIS PROOF OF THE MIRACLE THAT HAD COME TO MIDVILLE!

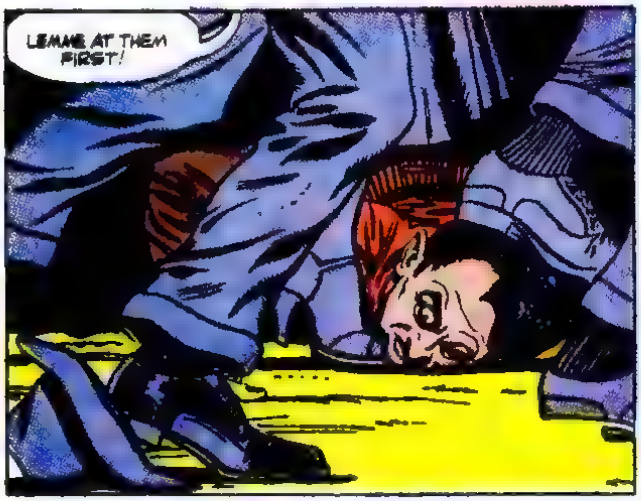


THEN, JASON HIMSELF HAD A FEW WORDS TO SAY...

"YOU HAVE TO TAKE ONE OF THE BOXES HOME!" THE WORDS ETCHED THEIR MEANING INTO THE WALL OF SILENCE THAT HAD FALLEN! AND THEN, SUDDENLY, THE REAL MEANING SANK IN!


WE'RE JUST EXCHANGING TROUBLES WITH OUR NEIGHBORS! BUT WHAT IF IT'S WORSE THAN OUR OWN? I WANT MINE BACK!
NOT BEFORE I GET MINE!
WHERE'S MINE?

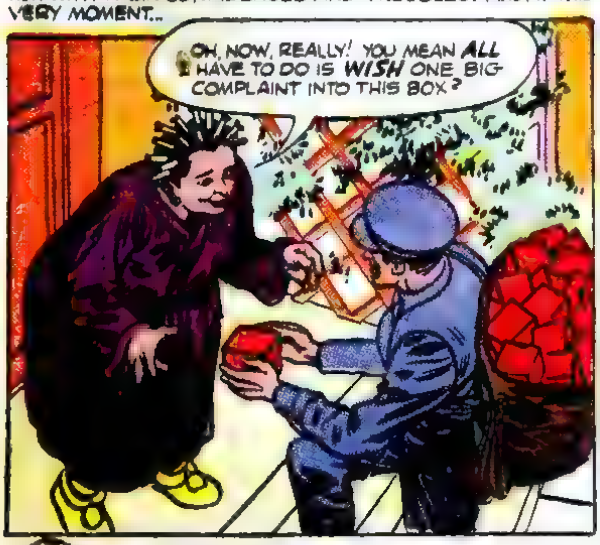
THE TERROR OF GETTING SOMEBODY ELSE'S SICKNESS OR FALTERING HEART, OR TWISTED LEG, OR...? AT LEAST EACH WAS FAMILIAR WITH HIS **OWN** AFFLICTION! THEY WERE LIKE A MADDENED PACK OF FRENZIED ANIMALS...A MOB WITHOUT REASON!



BLACK FRIDAY! A DAY THAT WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED IN MIDVILLE AS THE DAY THEY LOST THEIR HUMANITY! HYSTERIA. SELFISH TERROR CONQUERING GOOD SENSE!

AND JASON BEANE? WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO **HIM?** TIME PASSED AND...WELL HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF EAST BROOKSIDE? IT'S A LONG WAY FROM MIDVILLE...BUT THEY'VE HAD A LETTER CARRIER FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW! EACH DAY HE MAKES HIS APPOINTED ROUNDS..

THEY DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HIM EXCEPT THAT HE'S KIND-FACED...AND REAL CLOSE-MOUTHED! PEOPLE LOAD HIM WITH THEIR CONFIDENCES AND TROUBLES! AND AT THIS VERY MOMENT..



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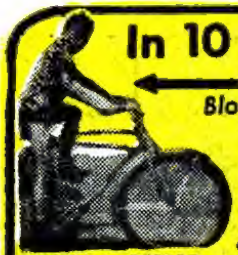

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from this Bloodless, Pitiful SKINNY SHRIMP to this

NEW MUSCULAR RED-BLOODED HEAD-TO-TOE HE-MAN!

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You can do the same as I and THOUSANDS have

You can add 10 inches to your CHEST 6 inches to each ARM and the rest in proportion as I did.

1

Look at JIM NORMAN'S HEROIC CHEST NOW! You can have it

HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY CHEST

2

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3

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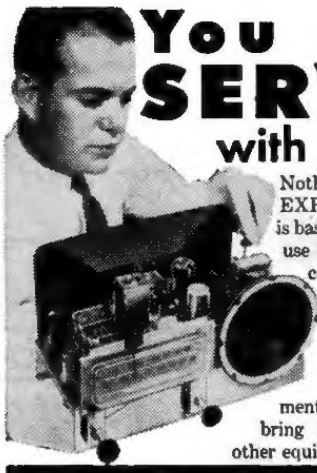

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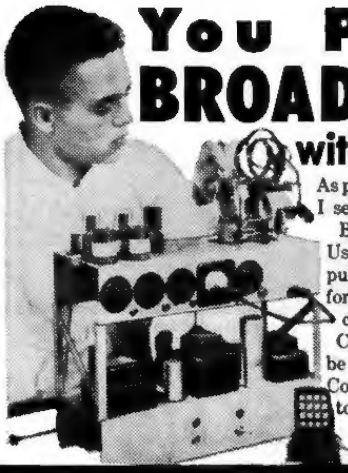
Nothing takes the place of PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE. That's why NRI training is based on LEARNING BY DOING. You use parts I send to build many circuits common to Radio and Television. With my Servicing Course you build the modern Radio shown at left. You build a Multitester and use it to help make $10, $15 a week fixing sets in spare time while training. All equipment is yours to keep. Coupon below will bring book of important facts. It shows other equipment you build.



You Practice BROADCASTING with Kits I Send You

As part of my Communications Course I send you parts to build low-power Broadcasting Transmitter at left. Use it to get practical experience. You put this station "on the air" . . . perform procedures demanded of broadcasting station operators. An FCC Commercial Operator's License can be your ticket to a bright future. My Communications Course trains you to get your license. Mail coupon. Book shows other equipment you build for practical experience.

I Will Train You at Home in Spare Time to be a RADIO-TELEVISION Technician

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N.R.I. Training Leads to Good Jobs Like These

I TRAINED THESE MEN

"Am transmitter-studio operator at KPAT. Most important day of my life was when I enrolled with NRI."—Elmer Frewaldt, Madison, S. Dakota.

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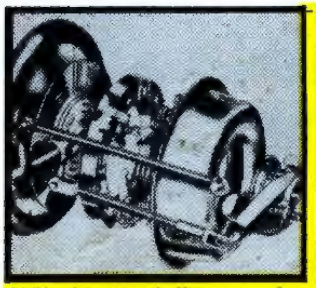
Mail Today—Tested Way to Better Pay



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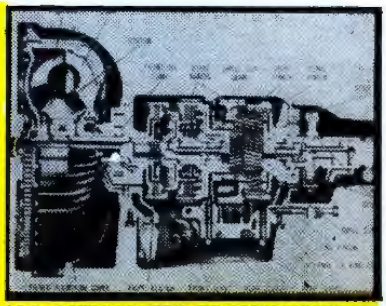

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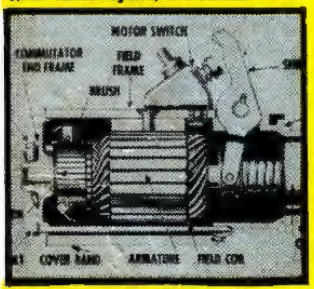

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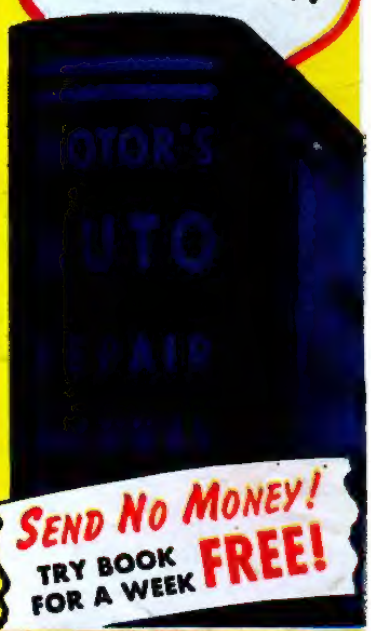

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